



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the special meeting held on 6 May 2022 at 0930 hrs on Google Meet

Present:

Dr J Brasted	Mr S Riad
Ms E Casey	Professor S Rigby (Vice-Chancellor)
Mr S Egan	Ms C Stott
Ms M Evans	Mr N Sturge
Ms S Harris	Dr E Wakelin
Ms S Lane	Mr H Watts
Ms J Luxford (Chair of Meeting)	Ms A Workman
Ms V Nawathe	

In attendance:

Ms L Barling (Governance Manager)
Mr D Newman (University Secretary)

Apologies:

Mr J Glasspool; Ms F Fryer; Mr S Lockren; Professor J Ravalier

21/62 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Ms J Luxford, Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors, chaired the meeting given that the Board Chair had absented himself due to reasons of conflict, in light of the nature of the primary matter under consideration at today's meeting. The Deputy Chair welcomed governors to the meeting and the Board noted apologies for the governors named above. It was agreed that the items on the agenda would be taken in the order set out below.

21/63 OUTCOMES FROM THE BOARD AWAY DAY HELD ON 26 APRIL 2022 (Paper G1226)

- 2.1 The summary of discussions and outcomes from the Board Away Day held at Corsham Court on 26 April 2022 were formally **NOTED**.

21/64 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- 3.1 The previous minutes from the Board meeting held at Newton Park on 27 April 2022 were formally **APPROVED** [noting that the agenda for today's meeting referred to 27 May 2022 in error].
- 3.2 The Board was reminded that at its meeting on 27 April 2022, it agreed, on the recommendation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Finance & Infrastructure), that [Redacted: FOI exemption, Section 43: commercial interests]. A copy of the documents from HSBC, including model resolutions, had been circulated with the minutes of the previous meeting. In this context, the Board **APPROVED** the proposed resolutions in order to proceed with the establishment [Redacted: Section 43, as above]. The Board authorised the University Secretary to make arrangements for the execution of any necessary documents on its behalf to give effect to the establishment of [Redacted as above].

21/65 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (Paper G1225)

- 4.1 Ms J Luxford introduced the paper and provided a summary of information pertinent to the chair appointment process. The following was **NOTED**:

- i. When the former chair stepped down from the Board of Governors in March 2021, the Board appointed the then Deputy Chair Jonathan Glasspool as Chair on a long-term interim basis.
- ii. At the time, the Board agreed that a transparent, open and competitive process for the position should be undertaken, commencing in autumn 2021, with a view to a substantive appointment being made and taken up by the successful candidate at an agreed point in 2022.
- iii. An executive search firm were appointed to identify and bring forward suitable candidates for consideration. Following a period of consultation with governors and the executive, the candidate brief for the appointment was agreed and a search commenced in January 2022.
- iv. The search firm brought forward a total of eight candidates, which were considered by a selection panel consisting of Ms S Lane, Mr N Sturge, Ms E Wakelin, Mr H Watts and led by the Deputy Chair Ms J Luxford. Mr S Lockren also participated in the shortlisting meeting, which was held on 16 March 2022.
- v. Three candidates were selected for interview. The shortlisted candidates were invited to meet individually with the Vice-Chancellor, members of the senior team and at least one independent governor to assist them in preparing for interview, all of whom were invited to provide feedback for sharing with the selection panel. A tour of the Newton Park campus was also offered to all shortlisted candidates.
- vi. Interviews were held in person at Newton Park on 28 April 2022. In addition to attending for interview with the selection panel, candidates were invited to take part in an SU engagement session led by the SU President. Feedback from the engagement session was provided to the selection panel on the day.
- vii. The role of the selection panel was to nominate a preferred candidate for the Board's consideration, noting that any appointment decision rested with the Board itself.

4.2 Each member of the selection panel in turn provided commentary on the key considerations which had been taken into account during deliberations. The Board was informed that there were two very strong candidates which the selection panel believed to be appointable.

4.3 A robust and comprehensive discussion took place regarding the respective merits of the candidates' skills and experience in the context of the published person specification for the role. Governors recognised the importance of ensuring the appointment of the best possible candidate for the role, not least because it would be for the appointee to build upon the successes enjoyed by the University in recent times and to lead the Board through the next phase of the institution's growth and development.

4.4 The Board expressed its gratitude to the Deputy Chair for leading a rigorous nominations process, noting that this had been a demanding task.

4.5 The Board considered that it was not in a position to make a final decision regarding the appointment at its meeting today and **AGREED** that the Deputy Chair and the University Secretary should assess the options and make any necessary enquiries with those involved in the process, with a view to presenting a proposed way forward at a reconvened meeting of the Board, to be scheduled at the next available opportunity.

David Newman
University Secretary
6 May 2022

Signed as a record of confirmed minutes:

Redacted: Section

40: personal data

Joy Luxford, Chair of the Meeting
Date: 10 May 2022